



## Ellwood Community School Snow Policy

### **Policy Status**

Recommended

As winter sets in, we hope that normal school opening hours will not be disrupted by severe weather conditions. We understand that closure can inconvenience parents and carers in making alternative arrangements and creates additional challenges for staff and pupils in delivering and learning an already packed curriculum. It is the policy of the school to make every effort to remain open whenever possible, however the safety of all pupils, parents and staff remains paramount.

The decision to close the school either before or during the school day will be made by the Headteacher (Mrs Milford). The school will only be closed if one or more of the following conditions apply:

- Insufficient staff (DBS checked, first aid trained and fully qualified) are able to travel in to keep the school running safely, (most staff live at a distance and may find roads blocked by snow, vehicles or accidents).
- Conditions on site are considered too dangerous for the safety of pupils, parents and staff.
- Conditions are considered to be, or are anticipated to later become, too hazardous for travel.

If the school is to close, a decision will be made as soon as possible, using the school closure procedure and the following will apply:

- A closure notice will be posted on the school website:  
<http://www.ellwoodschool.co.uk/website>

We will also strive to text, email parents and add to the school's facebook page.

- The closure will be reported on the Local Authority website;  
[www.glosclosedschools.com](http://www.glosclosedschools.com)

The school will make all practicable efforts to keep parents informed as to opening during adverse weather conditions as early as possible, as we appreciate that such conditions and the uncertainty places very considerable difficulties upon parents.

However, parents are expected to check the website and/or make themselves aware of the radio broadcasts, when it is clear that a closure is a possibility.

The school appreciates that during bad weather children may arrive later than normal; parents should endeavour to contact the school to let them know they are on their way if likely to be delayed and whether they would like to order a lunch. Where the school is officially closed, all absence is counted as authorised absence.

In the event of the school having to close during the day due to unforeseen worsening weather or similar unforeseen circumstances, parents will be contacted by phone either at home or work and asked to collect their child/ren. Please note - this will only be contemplated in very extreme circumstances.

In the event of snow, main pathways will be cleared, if needed and salted. Parents, children and visitors should be aware that pathways, even where cleared, can and do sometimes remain dangerous. Children will also be reminded of this.

Before and after school opening hours, parents are responsible for ensuring their children walk sensibly on and around the school site.

Playtimes may be changed during snow, please ensure children have boots and warm outdoor clothes in school in order that they may enjoy playing outside, if appropriate weather conditions allow.

During adverse weather conditions, playtimes may be held inside.

We will do our best to keep school open but the safety of the children, staff and those who accompany them to school has to be the priority.

**Links with other policies:**

Health and Safety Policy

Safeguarding

School Closure

Compiled by D.Milford January 2020

Review in January 2023